B·W·I STUDY CIRCLE

Cayman Islands – The Earliest Datestamp By John Byl

Figure 3
Dated APR 8 1891 and franked by two ½d's.
The earliest known cover from the Caymans, apart from pre-adhesives.

BULLETIN No. 209 June 2006

ISSN 0953-8720

BRITISH WEST INDIES STUDY CIRCLE

Affiliated to the Association of British Philatelic Societies

OBJECTS

1 TO promote interest in and the study of the stamps and postal history of the islands that comprise the British West Indies and in addition BERMUDA, BRITISH GUIANA (GUYANA) and BRITISH HONDURAS (BELIZE) and the Postal History and markings of all other Caribbean territories during any period that they were under British administration or control, and those British Post Offices which operated in the Caribbean, and Central or South America.
2 TO issue a quarterly BULLETIN containing articles, items of interest and other features.
3 TO loan books from the Circle library (home members only). Borrowers bear postage both ways.
4 TO publicise 'wants' and furnish opinions on stamp(s) and/or cover(s) for a nominal fee.
5 TO encourage, assist or sponsor the authorship and publication of definitive handbooks, monographs or other works of reference appropriate to the aim in paragraph 1 above.

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Study Group Leaders:	Listed in December 2003 Bulletin and on the Web Site

Printed by Sarsen Press, Winchester

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SOCIETY PROGRAMME OF EVENTS & INFORMATION

Philatex 2006

… at the Horticultural Halls, Greycoat St London SW1.

To include a BWISC Meeting in Room 33 on Saturday, 28th October 2006 from 15.00 to 17.30.

The displays are:–

- Alan Rigby – St. Kitts-Nevis
- Derek Seaton – Early Jamaica

Convention 2007

Provisional Date: 21st/22nd September 2007

Personal Mention

One regular attendee at our AGM & Auction, Ron Cronin, missed the whole event owing to a nasty fall in South Africa during March. Fortunately, if slowly, he is now well on the mend.

Members' Information

As some of you will know, I am researching the War Tax overprinted stamps that were issued during the First Word War by 17 of the Colonies in the British West Indies. With thanks to our Chairman, Peter Ford, our Study Circle intends to publish a book in due course. We hope to illustrate the book with colour images of the stamps, covers, and other relevant material.

I would like to invite members' help in this project.

First of all, it will be preferable to have scanned images of original material instead of scanning copies from auction catalogues and other publications. If any members have in their collections, (or know someone who has) any essays, die proofs, imperforate proofs, or any other significant material of any of the War Tax stamps, I would be grateful if they would contact me.

The scope of the book will include, for each Colony, the purpose for which it introduced a War Tax, correspondence between the Colony and the Imperial Government, minutes of meetings, legislation etc, that was required to bring the stamps into existence; also postal rates, period covered by the War Tax, revenue received, and how applied etc. It would be appreciated if members with a specialised knowledge of particular Colonies would be prepared to proof read my draft chapters before going to print. In the past, when I have invited help through the Bulletin this has met with little response, but I have been told by others who have gone before, that as soon as I publish a book, the letters will flood in to tell me what is wrong with it. I would like to avoid this, by getting it right in the first place, and by ensuring that my book is complete, and comprehensive, and the definitive work on the War Tax overprints. I look forward to hearing from anyone who would be willing to help.

John Davis [john.davis9@dsl.pipex.com or via the Editor]

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MINUTES OF THE 51st ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE BWISC HELD AT 2:15 PM SATURDAY 6th May 2006

1. Chairman's Welcome and Opening Remarks

The meeting was opened by Peter Ford, who extended a warm welcome to the 30 members present.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Graham Booth, Victor Toeg, Simon Greenwood and Phillip MacMurdie.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting & Matters Arising

The minutes of the previous meeting on 23rd April 2005, as published in Bulletin No. 205, June 2005, pages 5 to 9, were accepted.

4. Report by the Hon. General Secretary (Peter Boulton)

Apart from the AGM and members' auction last year, the main event was the biennial Convention held at the Corus Hotel, Warwick on the weekend of the 30th September. This was very successful, with over 40 members attending. This was admirably reported in the Bulletin of last December, and was illustrated with excellent photographs of members!

The membership now stands at a total of 342, of which 231 are UK members and 111 are overseas members. This is slightly down on last year's figure of 347. Three members died during the year, three members resigned and 15 members were removed due to failure to pay their subscriptions, even after reminder letters. However, we gained 15 new members, plus one member who rejoined. The membership database is working satisfactorily and is continuously being updated and recorded in each issue of the Bulletin.

Proposed: Charles Freeland, Seconded: Nigel Chandler, Accepted by the meeting.

5. Report by the Hon. Editor (Steve Jarvis)

I am pleased to report that Members continue to provide a steady flow of articles, enabling me to regularly publish a 40 page Bulletin. I was particularly gratified to receive contributions from new authors and I would encourage everyone to make an effort to put pen to paper, even to just supply a scan of a favourite cover with a few words of description.

My thanks to Peter Ford for undertaking the colour printing during 2005 and Charles Freeland for saving my embarrassment through excellent proof reading, not only correcting my grammar and spelling but using his immense knowledge to enhance the information in many articles. My thanks also, to Tony Hill, at Sarsen Press, for his help on the production side. Sarsen have recently invested in some new technology and their prices are such that they can now undertake all the printing, saving Peter and me considerable effort and simplifying logistics.

I have just taken early retirement and this should enable me to spend more time on philatelic projects, including the Bulletin and our Website. For the next edition, I have introduced two new features, Member's Wants and Member's Questions, I encourage everyone to respond and to submit further items – these also appear on our Website, which has been redesigned with more content added.

Peter Fernbank has continued to convert old Bulletins to electronic format and has now reached edition 110, excellent progress in making this information available for further research. Charles Freeland is also providing regular updates to auction news, so I would advise members to visit the site regularly for latest information that due to publishing deadlines cannot be included in the Bulletin. Please let me know of further services and information that would be useful to incorporate into the Bulletin or on the web site.

Proposed: Michael Medlicott, Seconded: Dave Richards, Accepted by the meeting.

BRITISH WEST INDIES STUDY CIRCLE

INCOME STATEMENT : YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2005

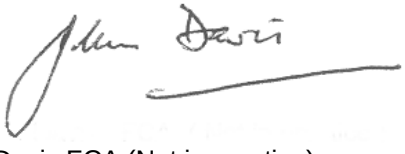
	£'s	2005	£'s	2004
INCOME :				
Subscriptions		3,424		3,269
Publications – Sales less commissions		2,223		2,697
Auction and other donations		1,384		5,316
Leamington convention – net surplus		53		-
TOTAL INCOME		**7,084**		**8,180**
EXPENDITURE :				
Bulletin Costs less advertising	1,588		1,392	
Bulletin printer repairs	-		245	
Distribution and editorial expenses	1,519	3,107	1,352	2,989
Publications: Printing costs	8,481		2,782	
Publications Distribution	362		(150)	
Printer depreciation	470	9,313	470	3,102
Library - Books and expenses		-		11
50th Anniversary weekend – net cost after recoveries		-		762
ABPS affiliation fee		137		136
Officers administration – Stationery, postage, telephone etc		94		205
Bank charges		84		91
Website		58		72
		12,793		**7,368**
DEFICIT EXPENDITURE OVER INCOME	**£'s**	**(5,709)**	**£'s**	**3,914**

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st DECEMBER 2005

ACCUMULATED FUND				
Balance at 1st January 2005		5,873		2,076
Add: Deficit for the year		(5,709)		3,914
Dollar conversion reserve		10		(117)
				5,873
	£'s	**174**	**£'s**	**5,873**
REPRESENTED BY:				
Printer (net of depreciation)		940		1,410
Cash at banks		3,154		2,053
Debtors – amounts due to us		2,317		5,019
		6,411		8,482
Less : Subscriptions received in advance	(2,570)		(2,389)	
Loan	(3,500)			
Other creditors – Amounts due by us	(167)	(6,237)	(220)	(2,609)
	£'s	**174**	**£'s**	**5,873**

AUDITORS REPORT

I hereby certify that the income statement for the year ended 31st December 2005 is in accordance with the books, vouchers and explanations given to me; and that the Balance Sheet at the 31st December 2005 shows the financial state of the British West Indies Study Circle as at that date,



J G M Davis FCA (Not in practice)

6. Report by the Hon. Treasurer (Ray Stanton)

Firstly I can confirm that the accounts for 2004, presented in draft at last year's meeting, have been subsequently audited by Tony Farmer without the need for any changes. As you were aware Tony wished to step down as Auditor and I would like to thank him for the many years that he has assisted the Study Circle not only with the audit but also with the general financial advice that he has given both to myself and my predecessors as Treasurer. John Davis has kindly agreed to take on the mantle of Auditor as from the 2005 accounts for which we are most grateful.

Last year we agreed to a change in the method of accounting for publications in that stocks were completely written off and each year income recorded from sales made in that year and on the other side expenditure incurred on the production of publications and books in that accounting year. This has however led to the 2005 year showing a substantial deficit in that substantial costs were incurred on the British Guiana postcard book and Volume 1 of the Steamship Lines to the Caribbean but without substantial sales having been made before the end of 2005. It may be that we will need to revisit this policy.

Income from subscriptions continues to gradually improve as the increase in rates two years ago comes through, and continues to fully cover, along with advertising receipts, the cost of producing and distributing the bulletin.

Income from the Study Circle auction continues to be an excellent source of funds but of course did not rise to the dizzy heights of last year's Golden Jubilee auction.

With regard to expenses, we have saved on meeting room expenses due to the continuing generosity of Grosvenor Auctions and we covered our costs for the Leamington convention last Autumn, in fact a small surplus accrued.

Proposed: Derek Nathan, Seconded: Andy Soutar, Accepted by the meeting.

7. Report by the Hon. Librarian (Ian Jakes)

There has been a loan of 13 books to 7 members during the year. This compares with a loan of 19 books to 6 members during the year ended April 2005.

Another six members, rather than borrow books, have requested information from the Library. I have been pleased to do research on their behalf and provide these members with the requested information free of charge. Notably I have supplied information to one of our members who lives in Guyana relating to the 1856 British Guyana one cent Black on Magenta. This information was used by our member to produce a 1500 word piece on this stamp to celebrate the stamp's 150th Anniversary. The article was published in a newspaper in Guyana on Sunday 2nd April 2006 (April 4th is the date on this unique stamp). A copy of the newspaper article is in the Library archives.

Whilst the Hon. Librarian adds information to the scrap books from time to time, no other member has provided information for the scrap books for the last 2 years.

One member has requested and been provided with a copy of the Library Catalogue.

There have been a number of generous donations to the Library during the last 12 months, details of which appeared in the March 2006 bulletin. Since this time Steve Jarvis has donated a booklet to the Library concerning all of The Cayman Islands Post Offices. The second donation was by Mr H G Knibb of Great Missenden of 212 colour slides and 3 photocopy albums relating to the former B.B.I. collection of the stamps and postal history of Barbados. This really is a fabulous donation and should be of interest to all Barbados Philatelic Collectors. It is certainly a useful addition to our archives.

Many thanks from myself and all the Committee to all donors.

I have provided Jane Moubray, past President of the Royal Philatelic Society, London, with information on the Bahamas King George V issues to assist her in the writing up of the R.P.S.L Bahamas Collection. The information she required was not in R.P.S.L.'s own Library. This just emphasises the importance of a specialist British West Indies Library.

Finally the Library has recently purchased the revised book on the Madame Joseph forged postmarks written by Brian Cartwright and published by R.P.S.L. This is available for loan to members.

Proposed: Steve Jarvis, Seconded: Peter Fernbank, Accepted by the meeting.

8. Report by the Hon. Publications Officer (Peter Ford)

2005 saw a flurry of publishing for the BWISC; firstly, a book on British Guiana Picture Postcards by Terence Dickinson was published almost exactly a year ago. This has been selling somewhat slowly, many of the sales to BG expatriates both in the UK and Canada, where it was publicised widely. Of the 200 odd copies printed, we sold 35 last year with a few more selling this year.

Next, just in time for the Convention at Honiley, we published the first volume of Mike Rego's Steamship Lines to the Caribbean. This book has been a long time in coming for various reasons and it was pleasing to see the end result when it arrived. We sold some 25 copies last year. The next volume will hopefully appear in the not too distant future. The first of our new series of Study Papers, Stewart Jessop's Bermuda Civil Censorship in World War I, was published very early in the New Year (2006).

Books in the pipeline, in probable order of publication, are Richard Mailsel's Cayman Islands booklet in the Classic Collections series, a second volume of the Steamships Lines series, and maybe Volume 8 of the Jamaican Encyclopaedia on Airmails, this last will hopefully appear fairly soon now that Steve Jarvis has retired. In the more distant future, our Trinidad book and John Davis's book on War Tax Stamps are in the process of being prepared.

Sales figures for last year are as follows: Jamaica Vol 1 – 12; Jamaica Vol 6 – 2; Jamaica Vol 9 – 4; Trinidad Airmails – 11; Montserrat – 4; Leewards Islands Fees Stamps – 5; Dominica – 3; Leewards Islands – 5; Barbados Post Office Markings – 16; Classic Collections - Barbados – 4; Classic Collections - Nevis – 4; British Guiana Postcards – 35; Steamship Lines Vol 1 – 25. This gave us sales of some £2700 which after commission netted just over £2200.

One of the problems we are facing having such an active publications policy, is that we are publishing books faster than we can sell them with the inevitable problem of finance. David Druett and I have done all we can to publicise our publications particularly in areas outside the Study Circle. We have placed flyers in the BCPSG Journal, we will be advertising our books in a forthcoming Jaffe auction and we have the books advertised on various websites. However, we may have to slow down our publishing rate in the future unless we can sell more books more quickly.

I hope the membership is in agreement with me that publishing books pertinent to our area of interest is one of the best ways of encouraging more collectors to our Study Circle, and I hope to continue publishing for the foreseeable future. When I first took over the job of managing our publications, I had a problem persuading members to write; now with some 6 books in train, I have no shortage of volunteers willing to put the results of their research onto paper.

Proposed: Roy Bond, Seconded: Peter Marshall, Accepted by the meeting.

9. Report by the Hon. Public Relations Officer (Philip MacMurdie)

No report received.

10. Report by the Chairman of the Committee (Peter Ford)

After our 50th Anniversary Year in 2004 with all its attendant activities, my report for the year following is bound to be somewhat of an anticlimax. However, this is not to say that your Committee has been resting on its laurels. No, indeed not. I have to report that our Hon. Editor has been working to improve still further our Award-Winning Bulletin, as well as adding further improvements to the BWISC website. Only recently have I been examining the website fully and was surprised to see how much useful information now resides there. We now have Bulletins Nos. 1 to 100 available for study, as well as the later ones from No. 198 on. This is all due to the efforts of Peter Fernbank. There is now also a Philatelic Auction Bibliography, compiled by Michel Forand and Charles Freeland. This, I am sure, will prove to be a valuable research tool in the future. There are also links to Postal Authorities in the West Indies, other philatelic societies that may be of interest to West Indies collectors and links to many dealers who may have from time to time material on offer which is of interest to our membership. The website also has news of forthcoming events.

Last September/October we held our biennial Convention at Honiley; I am sure that all who attended enjoyed the event and out thanks, as usual, have to go to Peter Boulton who organised the day and was present to make sure everything went smoothly. Plans are already in place for the next Convention, tentatively booked for the 21st/22nd September 2007. I would encourage all

members to consider attending, especially those who have not come along before. I am sure that they would return again and again, as it is perhaps the best function we hold and I don't think I have ever heard anyone complaining or criticising the event.

You will have heard our Hon. Secretary tell you about our membership numbers; however, this last year we lost one of our most distinguished members, Peter Jaffe.

You all will have read Simon Goldblatt's moving tribute to Peter in the December Bulletin and I will not add to that except to say that he was a Vice-President from 1993 to 1999 and with his death we have lost one of the giants of BWI philately.

I also have the sad duty to say farewell to Dennis Mitton as a member of the Committee. Dennis has been a member of the BWISC Committee for as long as I can remember. Together with his wife, he has always been active at our Conventions, organising the informal displays and the raffle. We are extremely grateful to you, Dennis for all your help and input to our Committee discussions.

In 2003 the Committee asked for members who could to pledge a contribution towards our colour laser printer. We set an arbitrary date when this pledge would expire; I am pleased to report that that date has passed and we had no need to ask members to honour that pledge. I do not know who pledged money towards this cause, but I would like to thank them all for their generosity.

Finally, I must thank your Committee for all the hard work they put into all our activities; without them this Study Circle would not function as one of the best, if not the best specialist society in the world.

Accepted by the meeting

11. Re-Election of the Chairman of the Committee

Peter Ford was re-elected unanimously.

12. Re-election of Officers

The President, Vice-Presidents, Hon. Officers and Messrs. N Chandler and M.Hamilton have all agreed to continue as members of the Committee. Consequently, all are automatically re-elected.

It was proposed and agreed that Peter Fernbank be elected to the Committee to replace D Mitton.

13. Election of the Hon. Auditor

Tony Farmer has relinquished the position and the Committee had agreed to award Tony with Life Membership in recognition of his contribution to the Society.

John Davies has agreed to take over this role.

14. Other Business

Charles Freeland noted that the web site now contained a useful gallery of images from collections shown at the Conventions and that Steve Jarvis had volunteered to visit the homes of holders of significant displays / collections to take computer scans and hence make a record for posterity and for reference purposes (available on the internet). Peter Ford remarked that he was already obtaining some scans from auction houses of important sales and copies of these would be stored on disk and held in the library.

Any members willing to make parts of their collection available to others should contact the Editor.

Allan Leverton suggested sending a copy of the Bulletin to the Keeper of the Queen's Collection.

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BARBADOS

St.Lawrence S.O. By David Horry

Re- Barbados bits and pieces in June edition of the BWISC Bulletin - Fitz Roett notes LRD for the St.Lawrence S.O. as 14 MY 37. This is not so, the LRD is 23 FE 39 although I have a note that it was re-used 3 MY 67! But I cannot confirm the latter. This datestamp arrived at the Post Office 29 May 1933. ERD is 11 JY 1933.

CAYMAN ISLANDS

The Earliest Date Stamp By John Byl

At some time before the opening of the first Caymans post office in Georgetown, Grand Cayman, on or about 12th/13th April 1889, it is believed that the inhabitants, frustrated by the lack of official postal facilities, set up a post office on their own account. It is reported that the authorities closed it down within a few days. A single used Jamaican 2d stamp S.G.16, ex. Watkin and Meredith (fig.1) exists cancelled '5MA(?)/CAY(MAN)/ISL(ANDS)' in three lines within a double oval. Unfortunately it is not possible to decipher the words between the two ovals. The top line has been interpreted as 'SMA(?)', which makes no sense. However, if the reader inverts the illustration it will be seen that the first letter is a '5' rather than an 'S'. The three lines would then read either '5MARCH/CAYMAN/ISLANDS' or possibly '5MAR89/CAYMAN/ISLANDS'. It is unfortunate that no year shows, but this impression may be the sole survivor from the date stamp of the unofficial post office.

It may be that the brief opening of this post office by the inhabitants gave added impetus to the Custos of the Caymans, the Hon. Edmund Parsons, in his attempts to persuade the Postmaster of Jamaica to open the branch office in Georgetown mentioned at the beginning of this article. Moreover, an early March 1889 date for the unofficial post office fits well with the opening date of the official one as this would allow for some weeks of dialogue between the Custos and the Postmaster.

The new post office was supplied with an oval rubber date stamp (fig.2) now known as Georgetown Type 1. A supply of Jamaican stamps up to a face value of 4d was also provided. These included the ½d yellow-green SG16, 1d purple & mauve SG27, 2d green SG28, and 4d red-orange SG22. At a later date the 2½d dull purple & blue was also sent. It is likely that the sole known used example of the 2d slate SG20a was not part of the consignment, but was conveyed to Grand Cayman privately and cancelled at Georgetown.

Covers Cancelled by Georgetown 1

Although around 130 stamps off cover are known cancelled by Type 1, only five outgoing covers are known bearing this cancel. In addition seven incoming covers or cards are recorded showing this date stamp as an arrival mark.

All outgoing covers are to Jamaica franked at the 1d rate, three by two ½d yellow-green singles and two by a 1d purple and mauve.

1. Dated APR 8 1891 (fig.3 – see front cover) and franked by two ½d's. It is light brown and is the earliest known cover, apart from pre-adhesives, from the Caymans. H.B. Hitchin seems to have been an agent acting for the Caymans in Jamaica. It is backstamped by the blue cachet, also dated APR 8 1891, of the firm which sent it, F.N. Lambert & Co. The back also has impressions of 'Montego Bay AP 13 91' as transit mark and 'Kingston AP 13 91' as arrival.
2. Dated DEC 22 1891 and also franked by two ½d's. The only illustration to hand (fig.4) is from a catalogue and shows just enough of the 'R' of 'Roberts' to indicate the cover is similar to numbers 1 & 3. It was sold at auction in 1945 and again in 1955, on both occasions by Robson Lowe.
3. Dated DEC 28 1891 (fig.5) and is similar to number 1. Again the Lambert cachet has the same date as the cancellation. The other backstamps are 'Montego Bay JA 4 92' and 'Kingston JA 5 92'. Also on the reverse is written 'Got a little leather to make straps for chronometer boxes'. A message which seems to give a flavour of life on the Island at that time (fig.6).

4. Dated OCT 8 1892 (fig.7) and franked by a single 1d purple & mauve. It was bought by a dealer at a local stamp fair in the 1960's for his 'pension fund'. Would that all pension funds have done as well as this!
5 Dated APR 8 1893 (fig.8). Franked by a single 1d and backstamped 'Lucea AP 22 93' and again on the 24th. Kingston arrival dated AP 27 93. Without counting some of the recent owners, it has, perhaps, an unequalled provenance including Bostwick, Watkin, Meredith and R.A.G.Lee.

Brief details of the seven incoming covers/cards bearing a Georgetown Type 1 as arrival mark are shown in the table below.

Franked	Cancellation	Addressee	Georgetown 1 arrival mark
½d Jamaica 'thin' O F F I C I A L	Spanish Town 'A76' Barred Oval	To Mr. Robt. Cole Prospect & Slo Sound o/c Mr F. McTaggart Grand Cayman	AUG 7 1890
½d Jamaica 'thick' OFFICIAL on OHMS card (fig.9)	Spanish Town NO 11 1891	Rev. Fredk. S. McTaggart George Town Grand Cayman P.O.	NOV 24 1891
½d Jamaica 'thick' OFFICIAL on OHMS card	Spanish Town DE 31 1891	Mr J. McTaggart Grand Cayman P.O.	Jan 9 1892
2½d Jamaica	Lucea JU 22 93	Mr J.S. Webster Grand Cayman	JUN 24 1892
½d 'thick' OFFICIAL on OHMS card.	Spanish Town FE 28 1893	Mr Frederick S. McTaggart Cayman Islands P.O.	MAR 8 1893
1d Jamaica	Kingston AP 22 93	W.B Webster Esq. / Bodden Town / Grand Caymans	APR 29 1893 (on back)
½d GB vermilion	Manchester 6 JY 93	Webster & Sons Grand Cayman Cayman Islands	AUG 16 1893 (on back)

Notes and acknowledgments

No such list of covers as those given in this article can be considered to be definitive and should any reader know of another cover or covers I would be very glad to hear from him or her. Also from anyone who has comments concerning the above covers, or needs additional information concerning them.

In particular I would like to hear from anyone who has additional information concerning outgoing cover number 2.

Fig.2 is taken from that excellent handbook 'The Cayman Islands' by Aguilar & Saunders, and the illustration for outgoing cover number 4 was kindly supplied by Chris Rainey.

BWISC PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE FROM DAVID DRUETT AT PENNYMEAD AUCTIONS.

Author	Title	Price (Member's discount)
Deakin HF	Advanced Barbados Philately	£13 (£2)
Toeg EV	Dominica Postal History, Stamps, Stationery to 1935	£25
Jarvis & Sutcliffe	Jamaica Encyclopaedia Volumes 1, 6 & 9	Various
Oliver MN	The Leeward Islands. Notes for Philatelists	£53 (£8)
Britnor / Freeland	Montserrat to 1965	£16 (£2)
Rego MR	Steamship Lines to the Caribbean: Volume 1	£36 (£4)
Dickinson T	British Guiana Picture Postcards	£28 (£3)
Rego MR	Steamship Lines to the Caribbean, Volume 1	£36 (£4)
Jessop S	Bermuda Civil Censorship in World War I	£15 (£2)

Fig 1

Fig 2

Fig 4

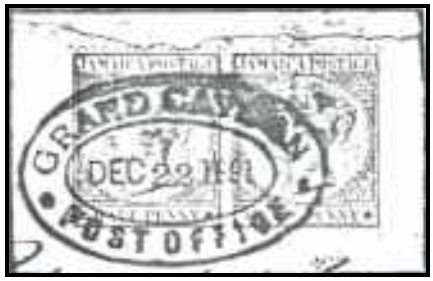

Fig 5

Fig 6

Fig 7

Fig 8

Fig 9

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Kenneth Watson **By Malcolm Watts**

I have been asked by Ken's widow - Audrey and the Yorkshire Philatelic Association to write this Obituary for Ken. Ken to me was a friend and fellow Jamaican Collector and we shared many happy evenings pondering over our collections and also in working with Derek Sutcliffe and the late Dr. Geoffrey Ritchie in producing various Caribbean Publications and Books.

Obituary - Ken Watson

William Kenneth Watson (Ken), passed away on 5th March 2006 at Cockermouth, Cumbria after a lengthy illness borne with fortitude. A devoted husband, he will be greatly missed by his wife Audrey, family and friends.

Ken was a very well-known and distinguished Philatelist and a Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society of London. He served for many years on the Executive Committee of the Yorkshire Philatelic Association, and was possibly its longest serving Chairman, having held the chair from 1974 to 1985. The YPA presented him with a glass goblet appropriately inscribed. He was also a signatory of the Roll of Yorkshire Distinguished Philatelists.

Ken's main philatelic interests were in the Caribbean Area, and he formed major collections of Jamaica, St. Kitts and London Coffee Houses. Ken was one of the founder members of the Roses Caribbean Philatelic Society, a member of the British West Indies Study Circle and British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group, as well as a long standing member of a number of various Yorkshire Societies.

Ken was a credit to Yorkshire Philately and will be long remembered, especially by West Indian Collectors worldwide.

Malcolm D Watts

25th May 2006

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LEEWARD ISLANDS

King George V ¼d Key Plate

By Simon Goldblatt

The opportunity has arisen to study a complete left-hand pane from plate 23, and the lower half of a right-hand pane, for the ¼d value. This exercise has amply endorsed Peter Fernbank's comment (KGV Key Plates p210) that the flaws on this value form a particularly rich area of study, and the irregularities noted are set out below. For ease of reference, these notes deal separately with the LEEWARD ISLANDS legend, and the frame for the ¼d. A surprising feature of the study is that the actual '¼d' value showed up with no significant irregularities in any of the 90 stamps inspected. As flaws in '¼d' have been highlighted now and then in circle auctions, it seems evident that the repairs in the late 1920s to which the handbook refers must have concentrated on this part of the plate.

LEEWARD ISLANDS

Generally, whilst the characteristics noted are likely to be visible on any sheet from the particular printing, their intensity may vary slightly from one sheet to another. A recurrent feature – indicated in the notes simply as 'S' – is that the final S is nearly always thickened and also apparently cut square, rather than curved, at lower right. The horizontal alignment of the lettering is significantly more accurate on the left-hand pane than on the right.

FRAME FOR ¼d

Generally, most frames display some kind of irregularity, with lines varying from thick to thin on many of the stamps. It might even prove possible to plate most stamps by reference to their characteristics, but this would demand much greater detail than the present study attempts.

The following abbreviated references are used for the six sides

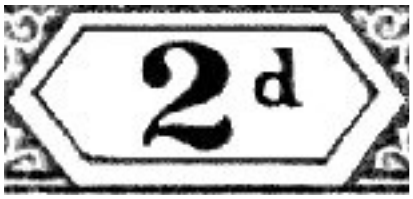
- T – Top horizontal
- B – Bottom horizontal
- UL – Upper left diagonal
- LR – Lower right diagonal
- LL – Lower left diagonal
- UR – upper right diagonal

Where fractions are quoted, this positions the reference, starting from left. Thus T1/3 indicates one third of the way along the top horizontal.

Comment on centring normally only indicates minor variation from the central position.

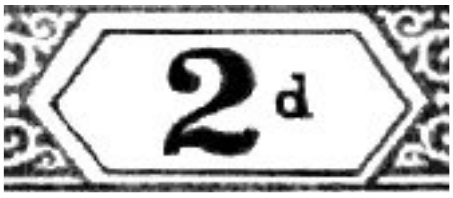
To give further guidance on centring, it is useful to turn to p23 of the Key Plates handbook where six duty plates are illustrated. The frames would attract comment as follows:

- Virgin Is – Centred low
- Gold Coast – Centred very low right
- Fiji – No comment
- Gilbert & Ellice Is – Centred high right
- Cayman Is – Centred high
- Leeward Is – Centred very low



Cayman Is

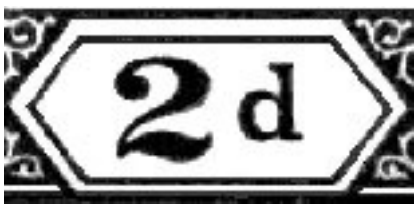
Fiji



Gold Coast

Gilbert & Ellice Is

Leeward Is



Virgin Is

My initial thoughts were that far less attention to centring - in contrast to horizontal alignment – has been paid in my notes on the LEEWARD ISLANDS legend. It can still be seen that, taking individual leads, the upper and lower parts of the duty plate were not in exact register together. This is particularly noticeable as regards the right-hand pane, where my notes on the value frame can be directly compared with Peter Fernbank's actual illustration at p98 of the name for Row 7/4, 5, 6. There must have been a uniform punch used for the ¼d value itself, but the value frame seems to have been individually engraved for each lead.

However, since writing my notes, I have had the benefit of a critique from Peter Fernbank. He rightly reminds me that as the original die proof for these stamps incorporated a frame round the value, there would be no question of the frame being separately engraved upon any of the subsequence plates. So the irregularities that occurred in the frame have evolved in a part of the printing plate that was not really sturdy enough for the strains and stresses imposed upon it.

Peter is also able to explain how name and duty came to be out of mutual alignment in a number of instances – but I prefer to leave the explanation for him on a future occasion: if appetites have been whetted, members will have something of real substance to which to look forward.

I have not specifically looked at the head part of the plate for commentary, and should simply observe that the flaw noted by Peter on p84 for RP10/5 presents with an actual vertical cut, in partial continuation of the white space between vertical frame lines, on the half-pane which I have examined. As this is the plate no. position, it will be easy for other members to identify this stamp, and make their own assessment of the state of the damage.

I suppose, too, that my opening observation on visibility and intensity of the characteristics noted may prove to be too general: for, if we refer to the section on 'Damage to Marginal Rules' (handbook p85-89), Peter has recorded that the Plate 23 faults for LP10/6, RP10/1 were not present for the ¼d value. Perhaps they developed during this very print run, because in my case the line below 10/1 is distinctly weak, whilst the interruption which I noted below 10/6 measures almost 8mm, with a further 4mm of weakness continuing to the right.

Although in a number of cases the characteristics noted are just as pronounced as some of the varieties that have been given catalogue status in recent years, I think that only one stamp deserves serious consideration for the purpose. This is stamp 37 in the right-hand pane, where the defective 'R' is a very unusual fault. It would certainly be interesting to trace this one back to its origins, and to find out for how long it lasted. Of course, if it belonged only to Plate 23 it would be scarcer, but surely not as interesting as if it figured in several printings.

Information, please, to the Editor, not to me!

RHP Row 7&8

RHP Position 37

LEFT HAND PANE

		LEEWARD ISLANDS	**FRAME**	**Centred**
Row 1	S on	All stamps		
1/1	1st L	fuzzy at top	T - thin; T2/3 – downward curve	Right
1/3			T1/3 – white arc bites from below	Right
1/4			T1/3 white arc similar to 1/3 but less regular	
1/5	1st L	Weak at left	LR – thinner at start	
1/6			B & UL - irregular	Low left
Row 2	S on	1,2,3,6		
2/1			T1/3 – thinning at top	
2/2				Left
2/3			T2/3 – slight inward curve	Left
2/4	1st L	Shadowy serif at top	LR3/4 – angular mark ½mm to left	
2/5	2nd L	Slants down along its foot	LL, VL - thinner	High left
2/6			T – break above value; B - thicker	
Row 3	S on	All stamps		
3/1			T – uneven; B – thick	Low
3/2			T – uneven	Left
3/3	1st L	Forms acute angle bottom left	T & B – uneven	Left
3/4		Slight upward tilt left to right	T1/2 – shallow downward curve	
3/5				High
3/6	N	White spot in right upright	T2/5 – small white break at top	
Row 4	S on	All stamps		
4/1				High right
4/2				High right
4/3			T1/3 – thinning; B – uneven	Right
4/4	1st L	White specks at centre	Variable thickness throughout	
4/5				Left
4/6			T2/5 – two thins, virtually breaks	
Row 5	S on	All stamps		
5/1	1st L	White specks at centre		High
5/4			T5/6 – a near break	High left
5/5	Final S	Coloured tick joins top right to centre	Variable thickness throughout	High left
5/6			B – Thick	High
Row 6	S on	All stamps		
6/1			T2/5 to 3/5 – much thinned and irregular	Low
6/2			T1/6 – kink beneath	
6/3			T & L – uneven	Right
6/4		Lettering centred low	UL & LL – thinner	Right
6/5			T – uneven; UR & LR – thinner	
6/6			Similar to 6/5	
Row 7	S on	All stamps		
7/1				Low
7/2			T – uneven	Left
7/4	Final S	Thin upper curve	UL – thin; B – thick	
7/5			LR & UR – thinner	Right
7/6			T – uneven; UR – thin	High right
Row 8	S on	All stamps, especially prominent 8/4, 8/6		
8/1			T start – dot ½mm below	Low right
8/2	1st S	Diagonal links both ends	T – uneven; T2/5 – virtual break	Right
8/3			T1/3 – shallow arc from above	Right
8/4	1st L	Shadowy serif	UL & T – uneven	Right & very low
8/5			Thinner frame lines	As 8/4
8/6		Letters centred low	T2/5 – shallow dip	Very low right

		LEEWARD ISLANDS	FRAME	Centred
Row 9	S on	All stamps		
9/1				Low
9/2				Low right
9/3	2nd D	White slash bottom right	Fairly thick all round	
9/4				Low left
9/5				Low
9/6		Letters centred low	B – thick	Very low
Row 10				
10/1	1st L	Shadowy serif		
10/1			B & T – uneven	Low
10/2				Low left
10/3			T – variable; UR & LR – thick	Low
10/4			T start to 1/3 – thin, irregular	
10/5	S		B3/4 – lower kink, causing slight break	
10/6	Final S	Weak	T to 1/3 – thin and irregular, with break over value;	
	W, I, NDS	White specks	UR & LR – thin	
			NB Jubilee line is interrupted for most of width of frame	

RIGHT	**HAND**	**PANE**		
Row 6	S on	6/4, 5, 6		
6/1	2nd D	Thickened	Very irregular throughout;	
	Final S	Irregular	T9/10 – near break	
6/2	W	Kink in right diagonal	Much irregularity	
	1st A	Kink in left diagonal		
	Final DS	Similar to 6/1		
6/3	1st E	White specks	Irregularly drawn; variable thickness	Left
	Final S	Defective lower right Letters centred high		
6/4	1st A	Weak horizontal bar Letters slant slightly down left to right	Badly drawn; Except for UR & LR - most uneven	
6/5	1st E	White tick bottom right angle		High left
6/6		Slight upward tilt left to right		Low left
Row 7	S on	7/1, 2, 4, 5		
7/1	LEE R	Acute angle top left each letter Amputated at knee level of upright	Variable thickness	Right
7/2			Neatest in the pane to this point	Left
7/3	Final S	Bulge at lower right	Thickish all round	Left
7/4		Alignment uneven and tilting down towards right	Unevenly inked	Very low
7/5	1st E	White ticks similar to 6/5	Variable thickness	Low
7/6	1st D	Thinner at lower right Letters slant upwards left to right	T & UR - thick	
Row 8	S on	8/1, 2, 3, 5		
8/1	W	Kink, left inner diagonal. All letters centred high	Very uneven thickness, especially UL & T	
8/2			T3/4 – diagonal flaw	
8/3	Final S	Deformed	T1/6 – small lower projection	
8/4		Slight downward slant left to right	Irregularly drawn; T1/3 to ½ - thinned by shallow arc from above	
8/5			Variable thickness T & B	Low
8/6	Final S	Thickened right hand side Centred a little high	T1/3 to 3/5 – prominent dip	

		LEEWARD ISLANDS	FRAME	Centred
Row 9	S on	9/2, 4, 5		
9/1	1st A I	White speck at left near apex Shortened at foot		High left
9/2				Left
9/3	W R	Small kink left diagonal The diagonal cut at a slant at base Letters curve gently upwards left to right	T slants downwards a little	Left
9/4			UL – bulges especially at ¼	Low
9/5	1st A 2nd A	Whiter specks lower right Central bar angled upwards	T1/6 – fuzzy upward projection	
9/6	Final S	Thickened at top right, Top right joined to centre	Drawn unevenly with thinning at UL start and T1/3	Low
Row 10	S on	10/2, 3, 6		
10/1			T – uneven thickening NB Slight weakness of fraction bar and figure 4	Low
10/2			T similar to 10/1, but T less pronounced	Low
10/3	L 1st E	Cut diagonally at top White specks at bottom angle and at top angle Letter slant upward left to right	T as 10/1; LL2/3 – inner kink LL2/3 !	Low
10/4			B – thick to thin; LL & UL – both thick T – thick & uneven	Very low
10/5	Final S	Thickened at top	B1/2 – point of weakness; UL, T & UR – all thickish	
10/6		Letters centred high and slanting upwards left to right	T – thick, irregular; B – thinnish	Low left

NEW! NEW!

BERMUDA CIVIL CENSORSHIP WORLD WAR I

by Stewart Jessop

This will hopefully be the first of a new series of Study Papers, devoted to small but nevertheless important areas of research. Stewart Jessop has chosen a subject with which he is very familiar as one of the foremost specialists of Bermuda philately. Full of colour illustrations of covers of the period and it contains explanations of all known censormarks. **PRICE: £15.00 (BWISC members' discount £2.00)**

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MONTSERRAT TO 1965 BY LEN BRITNOR

UPDATED AND REISSUED IN 1998 by Charles Freeland

In the 8 years since the revised Britnor handbook went to press in 1998, additional information has inevitably come to hand. As is often the case when philatelic handbooks are updated, there is little new to report on the issued stamps. However, several important changes need to be made to the postal history section of the book, most notably the appearance of several 'horseshoe' markings and a new three-line handstamp dated 1799 that were a feature of the Neave/Batt correspondence sold by Sothebys in 2001. Another key event has been the publication of Ted Proud's 'Postal history of the Leeward Islands' and the associated sale of his extensive personal collection, of which I was able to obtain photocopies. This and other sightings have extended the date ranges of many of the postal markings and registration labels.

For the stamps, the only change of significance concerns the tables of printings of the Queen Victoria keyplates, based on research by Robin Davis and the author that was published in the London Philatelist.

I will continue of course to take note of additions and corrections to the published information, so members are asked to continue reporting their findings to the editor or to myself. In the meantime, my thanks to all those who have submitted new information that has enriched this update.

Montserrat to 1965 by Britnor / Freeland is available from Pennymead Auctions, Price £14 to members.

Corrections to the handbook (new text in bold italics, deleted text strikethrough/underlined)

Page 30

New sentence at the end of the paragraph on the detached triangle ***The occurrence of the detached triangle flaw and the numbers printed from Plate 2 were researched by Robin Davis and Charles Freeland, the results appearing in the London Philatelist of June 2004, issue no. 1316.***

Page 34

Last bullet should read

'perf. 12 1d bisect to a significant ***range of addressees*** ~~names~~ in Dominica, ***thought to be*** members of the local philatelic society, with the small ~~red~~ '½' surcharge in black….

Page 45

Second last bullet

(a) 'In the last stamp but one of the first row…***On posns 1/5 and 9/2 of both panes the***….'

Page 46

Second heading in middle of page ~~May~~ ***Jun*** 1918 ***(De La Rue packing date 31 May)***

Extend text in the middle section: '…in the dandy-roll. ***One recorded multiple shows the C missing in one impression and the A from the next one.'***

Third heading: ***4*** ~~6~~ March 1919

Page 71

Line 3 Start: ~~About 1800 a two-lined…~~ ***In 1799 a three-lined*** …

Page 72

First full para: 'Strangely enough no postal markings have been recorded from Montserrat between ~~1802~~ ***1809*** and 1836…'

Page 73

N2 (3) Additional usage dated …..***13 July 1794***

Insert ***N2a (1) Three line MT/SERRATT/Dec 9 (17)99*** (Fig.1)

This mark is similar to, but has larger lettering than, N2 and also has two final Ts.

Section 2 Insert ***C0 (7) Horseshoe type EKD 23 Jan 1804 LKD 8 Jun 1809*** (Fig. 2)

Pages 75-6

For more varieties of the Montserrat and Plymouth date stamps see Proud page 279-80

Page 79
Line 5 delete '~~Royal~~' before 'Army Museum'

Page 80
P4 Known with code letter B from ~~1908 to1919~~ ***2 Nov 1907***
New P6a ***Similar mark with asterisk but 24 mm EKD 18 Jan 1932 LKD 7 Mar 1933*** (Fig. 3)

Page 81
Add ***S5 new paquebot handstamp 27½x 4mm (Fig. 4) EKD 6 Oct 1952 LKD – Nov 1952***

Page 82
M3 Amend text: 'Recorded struck on ~~commemorative~~ ***commercial*** cover…cancelled with type D10
Add:
M7 Missent to Montserrat 50x3mm EKD 5 Oct 1959 (Fig. 5)
M8 Airmail 'From Antigua' EKD 11.11 1944 LKD 18.11 1944 (Fig. 6)

Page 83
Add new sentence at end of paragraph 1: ***A more recent source for the embossed revenues is W. A. Barber's 'Impressed Duty Stamps of the British Colonial Empire', 1996.***
Para 2 line 2 'These stamps were printed in ~~1870~~ ***1866*** by…
Para 5 line 4: '***Some*** stamps were issued on a claret background…'
Checklist heading: ~~1870~~ ***1866***

Page 85
Top entry: ~~1925~~ ***c1890.***
Proofs: ~~c. 1870~~ ***1866***
Essays: Essay handpainted in vermilion on St Christopher ***and Nevis*** 2d stamp duty'
Next line: ~~1925? 19th century~~

Page 88
CL3a Add numbers ***6,23, 39***
CL5a Add numbers ***64, 250, 297***

Page 89
Line 2 Add ***1d red perf 14 (SG17), 1d carmine-red perf 12 (SG 24)*** (Figs. 7-8)

Page 91
Illustration 259, add ***Madame Joseph Revisited by Brian Cartwright shows a second type of May 1935 cds with broken circle above the N***

Page 94
New types ***7a*** ***EKD 11 Mar 1929*** (Fig. 9)
7b ***EKD 20 Jan 1933*** ***LKD 23 Oct 1933*** (Fig. 10)
Type 7b was illustrated by Denis Charlesworth in bulletin 181.
New type ***9a*** ***EKD 4 Jan 1965 Still in use end 1965*** (Fig. 11)

Page 102
Add new sentence at end of text at top: ***Further research by Davis and Freeland that was published in The London Philatelist in June 2004 has revealed three new printings and a numerical correction to the original Easton tables.***
One Penny 15 Feb 1883 6,480 ***CA paper*** Perforated 12
Twopence Halfpenny Insert new printing: ***2 June 1888 2,820***

Page 103
Fourpence Insert new printing: ***2 Jun 1888 5,820***
Halfpenny 27 Nov 1884 printing: ~~12,180~~ ***12,870***
Insert new printing: ***2 Jun 1888 6,000***

Page 104
Extend bibliography:
Proud, Edward: The Postal History of the Leeward Islands, Proud-Bailey & Co, 2004
Under auction catalogues:
Sothebys 20 April 2001 The Neave/Batt correspondence

Date extensions

Page 72			
	Last line of page		
	N1(21)	EKD 22 Mar 1790	LKD 17 Sep 1796
Page 73			
	C1 (8)	EKD 27 Sep 1836	LKD 3 Jul 1838
	C3 (11)	EKD 10 Apr 1848	LKD 9 Aug 1861
Page 74			
	D3	EKD 24 Jun 1887	LKD 15 Jun 1892
Page 75			
	D5	EKD 1 Aug 1900	LKD 16 Sep 1903
Page 76			
	D10	EKD 11 Sep 1912	LKD 2 Nov 1945
	D11	EKD 1926	LKD 7 Jan 1943
Page 77			
	V2	EKD 13 Jun 1930 (Fig. 12)	LKD 5 Oct 1930
	V4	EKD 2 Apr 1927	LKD 12 Jun 1830
	V5	EKD 27 Aug 1931	LKD After 1965
	V6	EKD 25 Apr 1927 (this mark has been seen in purple)	LKD 23 Jun 1930
	V7 First period	EKD 2 Oct 1930	LKD 31 Dec 1932
Page 78			
	V10	EKD 16 Jan 1940	LKD After 1965
	V11	EKD 24 Dec 1958	LKD After 1965
	V13	EKD 7 Feb 1958	LKD After 1965
Page 80			
	P3	EKD 10 Sep 1870	LKD 15 Aug 1876
	P5	EKD 4 Sep 1917	LKD 17 Apr 1930
	P7	EKD 6 Apr 1933	LKD 1 Oct 1942
Page 81			
	P8	EKD 3 May 1957	LKD after 1965
Page 82			
	M4	EKD 11 Nov 1960	LKD After 1965
Page 93			
	Type 2	EKD 23 Mar 1904	LKD 13 Dec 1929
	Type 3	EKD 28 Jan 1909	LKD c 1921
	Type 5	EKD 15 Feb 1914	LKD 9 May 1914
Page 94			
	Type 6	EKD 23 Jan 1916	LKD 12 Nov 1921
	Type 7	EKD 1919	LKD 6 Oct 1931
	Type 8	EKD 6 Apr 1935	LKD 26 Aug 1948
	Type 9	EKD 1937	LKD 30 Jun 1956
	Type 10	EKD 7 Oct 1932	LKD 20 Jan 1940 (in red)
	Type 11	EKD 24 Sep 1931	LKD 2 May 1946
Page 95			
	Type 13	EKD 26 Mar 1935	LKD 16 Jan 1940 (seen in blue)

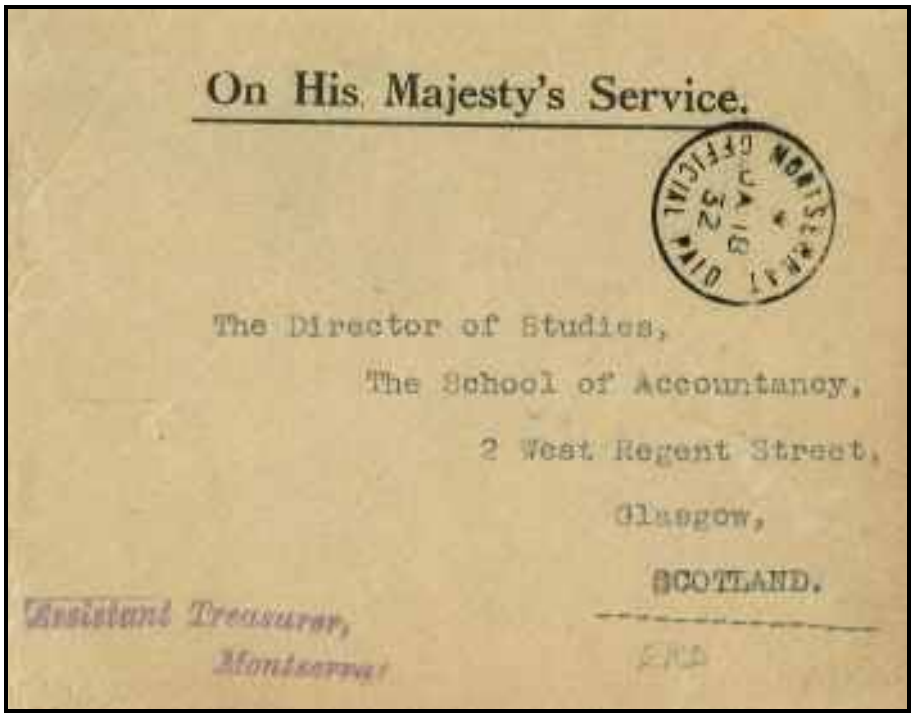
Figure 1

N2A Only recorded example of 3 line Montserratt

Figure 2

C0 Montserratt "horseshoe" Jun 8 1809 (LKD)

Figure 3



P6a Official Paid with asterisk not code letter

Figure 4

S5 Paquebot mark

Figure 5

M7 Missent to Montserrat

Figure 6

"From Antigua" Onward airmail marking.

Figure 7

Figure 8

Forged overprints

Figure 9

7A reg label

Figure 10

7B reg label

Figure 11

9A reg label

Figure 12

V2 Cudjoe head TRD dated 13 Jun 1930 (EKD)

Local Commercial Mail

Available from many of the Caribbean Islands including:
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– QEII 3d, 4d	- **£8**	**Rhodesia & Nyasaland** – 1954 1d	- **£5**
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AIR LETTERS

Folded to size - Other Countries Available -– List Available Worldwide

Bahamas – 1945 KGVI 7d	- **£10**	**Grenada** – 1951 KGVI 7c	- **£8**
Bermuda – 1945 KGVI 6d	- **£12**	– 1951 KGVI 12c	- **£10**
Br. Guiana – 1945 Blank	- **£12**	– 1951 Ship 25c	- **£12**
– 1945 KGVI 6c	- **£10**	**St Kitts** – 1954 QEII 5c	- **£4**
– 1945 Market 12c	- **£10**	– 1954 QEII 12c	- **£6**
Jamaica – 1965 Map 6d	- **£6**	**St Lucia** – 1949 KGVI 12c	- **£10**

ALLAN LEVERTON

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AUCTION REPORT

On the face of it, this year's auction compares well with any previous ordinary year. Certainly a sale room total of over £14,000 maintains the level attained in 2004 and 2005 and should give rise to a healthy surplus for our Circle at the year end. Digging deeper, there is room for a little anxiety over prospects for future years. Both in postal bidders – 73 of these – and registered room bidders – numbering 30 – the tally was down on previous years, and the percentage of unsold lots was perceptively higher than we have seen of late. So are we beginning to run out of steam?

The indications are equivocal. On the plus side, the sequences of lots for which no buyer emerged were spread fairly evenly throughout the sale. There were no territories that suffered disproportionately, unless we count the wipe-out of Redonda, with its single £2 lot. Indeed, for Dominica were positively encouraging. An island which has been somewhat out of favour for a period of years, was more than holding its own this time round. There was awakening interest, too, in the Bahamas and British Guiana, each of which has produced a measure of disappointment in other years of the new millennium.

Against this, support for St. Lucia is rather half-hearted, no interest was shown in classy holdings of Grenada Parish code cancellations, noses were turned up almost universally at Anguilla proof material of the last 20 or 30 years, and even St. Vincent lacked buyers for some of the goods on offer. No question but that our members are hard to interest in lots that smack of modernity (i.e. belonging to the present reign), or comprise just 'ordinary' stamps, in which some spercial feature cannot be distinguished.

Even Barbados had some blank spaces. The almost contemporary offering – in the same room, by Grosvenor Auctions themselves – of a substantial Peter Longmuir holding, would probably have made a few members more cautious; but it is only with occasional tots that we operate in the league of the major auction houses, greateful as we are for the facilities that they accord us.

In contract, the Terry Riccalton collection was withdrawn and sold as a single lot, as the catalogue had foreshadowed. If one compares realisations against estimates, either with this collection on its own, or across the whole range of lots that sold, there was and average uplift of about 8%. While the auction team's constant aim is to be accurate in their estimates, the message from members seems to be that they trust these valuations, but are prepared to go the extra mile for the things that they want. And why not? It would be sad to see item after item knocked down at around three quarters of estimate because buyers were not there to compete.

Competition is usually at its fiercest for quality postmarks, and the 2006 sale was no exception. The picked items of Antigua in lot 34 fetched £140 against their estimate of £40, so perhaps the new owner of the lot following got a bargain at £300 (estimate £360). In Bahamas we saw the Cornwall TRD go for £46 (est. £25) and a high quality example of the Bight for £48 (est. £19) where in recent years we have been unable to sell a fairly complete run of types 1 and 2. In Dominica, mutilation of the stamps (lot 283) did not deter the bidders for the manuscript V. Case - £40, est. £12 – and later in the sale we saw Coulibistrie (lot 392) realise £75, est. £28. Yet a superb early Wesley slipped through for £20 (lot 286). The buyer probably got a bargain.

In Jamaica, too bulky postmark offerings (lots 378 and 379) were keenly contested realising £130 and £85 against est. £50 and £40. Naturally, St. Vincent lived up to its reputation. The difficult Buccament sold for £44 (est. £20) and the next lot, a Peruvian Vale forerunner, went up to £130 against est. £30. Still, it's not often you can match the standard of an illustration in the PML handbook, let alone beat it.

So there were some of the postmark highlights, but British Guiana's emergency no. 1, lot 239, deserves a mention too. It was the most popular lot in the auction, with possibly 10 members after it, and the £38 sale price (est. £25) may not reflect its true potential.

One item that did realise its potential was lot 54, the sloping 2 variety of Bahamas. With a valuation of just £30, the catalogue could hardly have been more disparaging: not so the competitors, where a room bidder had to go up to £180 before outgunning the book.

In Montserrat we saw a Roger Wells cover reach three figures (lot 450, £100, est. £40). This is not a trend-setter; there were other Roger Wells items that failed to sell. Postal Stationery – never easy to sell – showed signs of buoyancy, not least in lot 418, the ¼d wrapper, whose £44 cost made

nonsense of est. £10. A cover from Hampden, lot 345, valued down at £18 because of damage to the stamp, was keenly contested and went for £65.

War Stamps are probably growing in popularity. So, too, are fiscals. Grenada's lot 322 fetched a healthy £150, and £1 values in 323 would clearly have gone higher than they did, had not an undescribed tear in one of the stamps inhibited use of the Book.

Despite the many unsolds, the auction never appeared to flag, and a late flurry for lot 641 – est. £20, sold £54 – must have left some of us wondering what we had missed.

There were plaudits for the catalogue itself, to whose presentation our editor, Steve, has added some master touches. The balance of the illustrations evokes particular praise, although the fact of illustration does not guarantee a sale. If we take the front cover, four items failed to sell; these were lots 52, 166, 452 and, most surprisingly, 259 which is understood to have sold for £150 nearly 20 years ago, compared with our presentation valuation of £120. Turks Islands lot 609, at least, did not disappoint. This rarity, est. £220, was fought for both on the Book and in the Room, where it was carried away for £360 after a hard tussle.

Pursuing the theme of illustrations, the items featured internally fared much better. Only one of eight items on the inside front cover was left on the Circle's hands; as this page was inadvertently transposed with the text on the back cover, the printer may have done the Circle a favour! There were only four missed sales amongst the rest, and these four included a row of Anguilla proofs, and two QV Specimen stamps. If Specimen items were slightly out of favour, this can only be a temporary blip.

In the end, as we have said, indications as to the future are equivocal. Continuing progress has to depend upon the auction tem maintaining to the full its standards of service to the buyers and sellers, and counting each auction as a stepping-stone rather than an achievement.

Our grateful thanks to Grosvenor Auctions for their hospitality.

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AUCTION UPDATE **BY CHARLES FREELAND**

Spink 2 March

Much sweat and tears will have been expended by St Vincent collectors in planning and executing their bids for Peter Jaffé's outstanding St Vincent, and if you went for the stamps only you will not have been happy as the prices for nice items were outrageous, driving the total hammer price to about double the £450,000 presale estimate (all prices plus 15%). But don't despair……there will be a second St Vincent sale (brought forward to January next year) which will contain much choice material, items that were duplicated in this first sale or that were not in the principal 19th century exhibits.

What can one say about the collection as a whole? Rarities abounded of course with dozens of unique items, largest multiples etc. Many had never been under the hammer with those lots identified as ex Adams and Gill as having originated with Clutterbuck and passed along in a series of private sales. Peter also acquired the Ishihara collection in the late 1970s; you can identify that provenance as the handbook (in Japanese) contains a checklist and many illustrations. Another collection Peter bought was the bundle of about 40 classic covers on offer by Bill Fox at the 1990 London International. Few of those are in the March offering so be ready for a wide range of Polignac covers next Spring.

The obituaries published in the September bulletin mentioned that Peter had commenced collecting village cancels in the early 1920s. It was therefore not a surprise to see a huge range of these and I suspect that many will be recycled in the coming months. Despite being a stockbroker, Peter was reputed never to have sold a stamp. This was partly because he was a true student who bought every plateable stamp he could find, in the hope that one day they would assist his legendary plating studies. This was accordingly not a sale for the connoisseur of choice single stamps and it was noteworthy that the catalogue contained relatively few Charlton-Henry provenances (I counted only 16). Another surprise was that Peter had acquired at least one lot (the 6d imperf between in a strip of five) at the Bill Frazer sale.

A frustrating program change prevented me from getting over for the event but I gather there was a well-filled room for a one-country sale including BWISC members Roy Bond, Federico Borromeo, Ron Cronin, Vincent Duggleby, Bill Gibb, Simon Goldblatt (accompanying David Jaffé), Michael Hamilton and Michael Medlicott. Several other BWISC members participated by the phone or through agents and the usual dealer suspects were present in force. As so often with such a collection, the prices bear careful review and Spink now posts them on their website just an hour or two after each session closes. There was a quiet start with selective bidding for the pre-adhesives (although the nice marks went well, there was little demand for 'seconds'). Things began to warm up with the GB used in St Vincent with John Taylor competing strongly. The nicest cover, the 1/- with crowned circle went for £8,500 but it was the St Vincent stamps that attracted the sharks. David Brandon bidding for his neighbour proved almost unbeatable on the proofs, rare stamps, and multiples (he appeared to drive John Taylor from the room, a rare victory). He paid the highest price, £44,000, for the gorgeous block of ½d on 6d provisionals pictured on the front cover, bought by Peter for £1,700 in 1973 (Peter will have been smiling down at that mark-up), and most of the other rarities. The most important proof item was the original drawing of the Jeens head and this looks good value at £5,800, at least compared to the £5,200 and £6,500 paid for the 6d and 1/- die proofs and some of the later proof material. Peter's beloved presentation 'CANCELLED's went for around £5000 each and his equally prized cancellations were keenly sought with Michael Hamilton scooping up most of the mixed village lots.

Despite valiant opposition from phone bidders, and less often from the room and agents, Brandon's customer spent over half the total 'take' of £900,000 odd, a rare proportion for any sale. His basket included the 6d yellow-green pair at £22,000 and the gorgeous block of nine 1/- brown at £20,000. To the frustration of some of our members, Brandon's customer showed an equally keen appetite for the revenues. Fortunately, his adviser does not 'do' postal history so the covers largely fetched reasonable prices and several satisfied BWISC members shared a number of rare frankings and most of the covers bearing village cancels.

So what conclusions can one draw about the current state of the market? As with Simon Richards' British Honduras, the really startling prices were achieved for the rare multiples, with the Gibbons prices becoming irrelevant in the battle for ownership between two or three rich men. One can

argue that classic blocks have been under-rated in the past - they form a key part of the Royal collection and for every surviving block of a classic stamp there may be hundreds of singles. Several Jaffé blocks fetched five to ten times catalogue and a few (notably the 1862 6ds) an astonishing 20 times. One can just comprehend such results for unique items or world rarities when two rich punters compete, but for less rare items offered now and then elsewhere they make little sense…...at least I would be cautious about assuming that the price levels attained at this sale (or at British Honduras for that matter) will be repeated in different circumstances.

Corinphila 5-8 April

Although not a major event for the BWI collector, I took a short trip to Zurich to observe the action at the sale of Berkinshaw-Smith's French maritime mail. I can confirm that this astonishingly rich field is thriving… and there were even some BWI nuggets among it. A 1788 St Lucia cover carried to France via Martinique and an 1872 cover carried on the Floride from Jamaica and stamped with the octagonal marks of both Lignes B and D, the latter the Kingston mark in red, each went for SF 2,400 plus 18%. The similar octagonal 'Trinité' mark from Trinidad to Paris on an 1881 cover franked with 4d grey went for SF 1,600. Strangely the collection did not include the St Lucie or Demerari paquebot marks….they must be scarcer than we think.

Bonhams 12 April

Yet another collection of Bermuda keyplates, and this one really did fall rather flat even though there were some rare items among them at very reasonable reserves. Nonetheless, most items sold and a trade buyer hovered up all the unsolds at the lower estimate. The highlight of a useful selection of Barbados was a rare local usage of the 1854 2d bisect, at £4,000 plus 17½%.

Coming events

On 8-9 June Cavendish will offer Ken Watson's specialised collection of Jamaica. Later in the year (probably in October) David Druett will hold a mail sale restricted to Ron Shiers Cayman Islands.

Murray Payne, the King George VI specialist, will be holding its first postal auction on 30th June. A large part of the auction is focused on the BWI with many lots of interest to the serious collector.

One final note on changes to the Jaffé programme announced in my last column. The BWI general sale has been postponed a week until 4 and 5 October and the second sale of St Vincent is now to take place on 17th January, brought forward from March.

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MEMBER SERVICES

Member Wants

The objects of our organisation include 'publicise wants', however, in recent years this does not seem to have been actively pursued.

If any member wishes to submit a want list, I will endeavour to add to our web site and perhaps stimulate a reply. Details to the Editor at info@bwisc.org.

Item ref	Updated	Description		Contact Details
PF001	31 Mar 2006	**MONTSERRAT** The original Britnor book on Montserrat mentioned that "In March 1925 new printings of the ¼d, 4d, 5d, 3s and 4s values were received; these were from a fresh plate numbered '2' in the margins". Has anybody got any single, a block or a sheet with a Plate Number 2? I would be willing to buy these or, failing that, I would like any information confirming the existence of a Plate 2	Peter Ford	peterf@bwisc.org
PF002	31 Mar 2006	**BWI** Any aerogramme from a British West Indies colony used to another non-British Caribbean country pre-1961	Peter Ford	peterf@bwisc.org
PF003	31 Mar 2006	**BARBADOS** Blocks, plate blocks or sheets of the 1912 set. There don't seem to be many around mainly, I believe, because surplus stocks were used for Revenue purposes	Peter Ford	peterf@bwisc.org
PL001	8 May 2006	**BARBADOS** --- Britannia Parish Cancels --- C1 ½d green imperf:: 2 , 4 , 6 , 11 4d red imperf:: 2 , 3 , 4, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11 6d red imperf:: 2 , 4, 6 , 7, 8 1s black imperf: 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11 4d red perf:: 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11 6d red perf:: 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10	Peter Longmuir	Peterlongmuir @blueyonder.co.uk
PL002	17 May 2006	**BARBADOS** ---- Britannia Parish Cancels --- C2 Bootheel on perf values SG 20 to 66 ½d green - SG 20 to 65: 2, 4, 8, 9 4d red SG 25 to 59: 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 9, 11 6d red SG 29 to 60: 2 1/- black SG34 to 61: 2, 3, 6, 9 1d blue SG 66: 2, 9	Peter Longmuir	Peterlongmuir @blueyonder.co.uk
PL003	31 Mar 2006	**BARBADOS** ----- Britannia Parish Cancels --- C2 bootheel on 1875--80 SG 67 to 83 ½d green: 2 4d red: 2, 4, 9 1/- purple: 2, 7, 8, 9	Peter Longmuir	Peterlongmuir @blueyonder.co.uk

PL004	31 Mar 2006	**BARBADOS** 1882--86 SG 89--99 C2 bootheel ½d green: 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10,11 1d rose: 4 and 9 (uprights only) 4d grey: 2, 3, 4, 8, 9 M2 ½d green: 3, 6, 8, 1d rose: 8, 9 (uprights only) 2½d blue: 3, 4, 8 4d grey: 4, 8, 9 4d brown: 6, 8, 9 M3 4d brown: St Andrew 9	Peter Longmuir	Peterlongmuir @blueyonder.co.uk
SS001	7 Apr 2006	**ST KITTS NEVIS** KGVI blocks, multiples, plate blocks, plate singles, superb used with dated CDS.	Simon Smith	si99@ssmitty .freeserve.co.uk

Member's Questions

Michael Hamilton has recommended we start a member's questions section. He has kicked it off with a few of his own.

Please provide additional questions and responses to the Editor (info@bwisc.org), who will publish updates in the Bulletin and maintain the full list of questions and responses on our web site.

Please use the reference to identify the item

Ref		
209/01	**BARBADOS**	**Michael Hamilton**
	Question:	Several years ago I saw in Ritchie Bodily's stock three single Britannia stamps of the 1875-80 period each cancelled by the Barbadoes Crowned Circle. Can any member assist with illustrations plus details of the actual stamps
209/02	**BARBADOS**	**Michael Hamilton**
	Question:	My records show no use of the ST. JOHN (Type M3) cds for the period MY 1 1889 to AP 23 1890. Dates of strikes between those dates would be appreciated plus any information of hurricane activity which could have affected postal operations in that parish at that time
	Response: 9 May 2006	Charles Freeland : I have St John M3 for Aug 3 1889
	Follow up: 10 May 2006	Over the years I have parted with two QV ½d (SG.89/90) with M3 cancels dated ST. THOMAS AU 16 88 and ST. PHILIP 3/OC 28 89 both showing part strikes unidentified brass negative mailbag seal cancels. If anyone has these I'm now anxious to confirm those year dates as correct.
209/03	**ST. VINCENT**	**Michael Hamilton**
	Question:	Until recently no cancellations for Layou were recorded between NO 8 1912 and MY 12 31. This 19 year gap has been bridged by a single 25mm Layou dated MR 10 23 with previously unseen "A" code on pair KGV 1d (SG.132). Can any further strikes be recorded?

Bonhams 1793

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BOOK REVIEWS

STEAMSHIP LINES TO THE CARIBBEAN BY MICHAEL REGO

REVIEWED BY GRAHAM BOOTH

Michael Rego's first book in a series was published in September by the Study Circle. It covers two lines - The Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. and the Hamburg America Line. We are already well served with information on Royal Mail through Kenton and Parsons detailed work on individual voyages to 1879, Mike's own book on ship marks and fleet lists published by Cockrill in 1987, the works of Ludington, Migliavacca and Oliver, the Duncan Hawes handbook, Nicol Stuart's two volume work "Macqueen's Legacy" and the general histories such as "A Business of National Importance" and Bushell's centenary history in 1939. It is therefore unreasonable to expect that there would be a great deal of new information, although I had hoped that it might advance Kenton and Parsons by a few more years, or give guidance on which of the Leeward Island manuscript cancels might be forgeries, neither of which does it attempt to do.

It is perhaps best visualised, for those who know it, as a second and much improved edition of Cockrill's hand book. Many of the paragraphs in the history are word for word the same in the two publications, but there are also substantial differences. More lists are provided e.g. the dates of the maiden voyages of the early steamers and of fleet losses in both World Wars. There is a new section on m.s.ship inscriptions; details of routes and services are considerably amplified and there are many more illustrations of ephemera. On the other hand the attempt to provide a scarcity rating has been abandoned.

The most significant change is to the indexing of marks. Instead of a general categorisation of a cachet by type and then a listing of the ships that are known to have used that type, as employed in Cockrill, each ship and cachet has its own 6 figure reference number. RMSP ships begin 01 and Hamburg America 02, while the last digit is that which the ship is allocated in the fleet list. So the first ship to be launched for the RMSP, the "Clyde", is 01001, with a final letter/digit identifying the mark. The progression will presumably be followed all the way through the series so that we will have an ambitious, comprehensive, but slightly complex catalogue. My only real criticism is that although there is a detailed explanation of abbreviations used, a general explanation of what is intended and how the indexing works is very superficial, and something more profound is preferable for subsequent volumes.

The Hamburg America section is almost 50% bigger than the Royal Mail section. I don't collect HAPAG, but I imagine that as there is less material in print about the line than for Royal Mail, at least in English, there is probably more new information here than in the Royal Mail section. In any event steamship enthusiasts can look forward to future volumes that are both comprehensive and good quality. Considering that they are printed employing a scanning process the colour illustrations are of a very high standard, and fully justify the Society's decision to invest in the equipment.

POSTAL HISTORY OF BARBADOS AND GRENADA BY E W PROUD

REVIEWED BY CHARLES FREELAND

The eighth handbook covering the BWI in the admirable Ted Proud series offers only one real surprise….more of that anon. The formula is well established: a few pages of concise history of each island; about 60 pages of photostats of post office notices or official records, clipped from a variety of sources; a chapter on postal rates including several notices listing the postal rates at different periods; and the meat for the philatelist, as opposed to the postal historian, a comprehensive record of all the postal markings and village/town marks, starting with the GPO and then in alphabetic order of each office, allowing the reader to identify the sequence of markings used at each of them. These lists are not particularly exciting for Barbados and Grenada dominated as they are by the Parish POs. However, the listings contain intriguing illustrations of the early codes below the Barbados cds and Grenada does have a few scarce village markings. Moreover, the book provides a valuable record of EKDs / LKDs and a pricing guide. The pre-adhesive marks for each colony look complete. Proud also provides photographs of most of the listed Post offices, many with their postmaster (or often postmistress) of the day posing proudly. While some of the earlier books include a wealth of maritime information, this one does not but

there is material on the Barbados railway including the 1910 timetable! As with all the books in the series, it is well produced with dust jacket and fair value at about £50 for its 330 pages,

These are not literary masterpieces to be read as books but reference works to be dipped into by the general collector of postal history or cancellations. Several of our specialist members regard the treatment as too superficial but those who collect across the board - and I am one of them - find them user-friendly. Ted has circulated drafts to a few experts in each field, enough to assure reasonable quality control without necessarily removing any chance of new 'finds'. He has also clearly digested our bulletins and similar reference works as there are few omissions that have been recorded publicly. In addition, his own collection is a source of much new information, mostly on LKDs and EKDs but also on GPO markings where for few of the colonies there has been serious research. I would note without criticism that Ted has in the past been economical with the information he possesses. Those who obtained photostats of the 'Golden Sale' offers or who bought any of the collections on offer will have had access to the material that lies behind many of the listings, but those who did not will find much new data here.

Now for the cautions. The facts reported in the historical text are ok for an overview but cannot be relied upon…one needs to go back to more reliable and extensive sources. The pricing code is ingenious with multiplication factors but the result is erratic. The forward says they are based on Proud-Bailey's prices for their stock but the quality of the material they offer obviously varies and this could partly account for the randomness, although not all of it. To take but one of many examples, the prices given for bootheel strikes range from £2.40 for an 11 to £60 for a 7, with £18 for a 10 and £30 for a 2. Equally, to suggest that a Grenada A code is of less value than a D seems incorrect in any period while 1861-2 prices for C, D and the very rare E are the same. A large number of marks are not priced at all. One wonders whether the pricing has simply been added to improve the marketability of the product…there is plenty of value in the book without the prices anyway. The purist would also criticise the paucity of the index and the bibliography, although they are less thin than some of the earlier volumes.

And now for the surprise. For the first time in the series there are illustrations of actual covers, four pages in colour. But that is not all…each of the covers illustrated come from Peter Jaffé's collection, and if you cannot wait till November to see two Barbados 6d Britannias on an 1862 cover to Australia, this is your chance.

The last two books in the series, covering St Lucia/St Vincent and Caymans/Turks, are in train. By then, Ted will have earned a debt of thanks from those BWI collectors who appreciate a concise volume on the postal history of their chosen territory.

peter singer

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Revisions to contact details should be provided to the Hon. Secretary, Peter Boulton, address inside front cover.

In this issue and in future, membership updates will be issued as loose booklet style inserts for the membership booklet.

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT — IAN JAKES

Library lists can be supplied upon application to Hon. Librarian accompanied by an S.A.E. (9" x 6½") – 2nd Class postage for 150 gm rate required.

If any member has a book which is not already in the library and which is surplus to requirements, perhaps that member will consider donating it to the library.

EDITOR & WEB-MASTER'S REPORT — STEVE JARVIS

Peter Fernbank has continued scanning early editions of the Bulletin. He has now reached edition 110, which are all now on our web site. Peter has also brought the Index of Bulletins up-to-date (Bulletin #202). An updated listing is now available for download from the web site or printed copy by application to the Hon. Editor at £2.00 or $US4.00.

At the Convention I managed to scan in a number of pages from the formal and informal displays. These have now been uploaded to the web site for viewing.

The proposed publication schedule for 2006 is as follows:

Edition	September	December
Distribute	Mon 11 Sep	Mon 11 Dec
From Printer	Tue 28 Aug	Tue 28 Nov
Printing UK & ES	18 to 28 Aug	21 to 28 Nov
Final Bulletin Revisions	Fri 11 Aug	Fri 10 Nov
Advert Final copy	Fri 4 Aug	Fri 3 Nov
Article copy deadline	Fri 14 July	Fri 20 Oct
Advert book space	Fri 7 July	Fri 6 Oct

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